

superintendent is to be made within thirty days after the commencement of the session, and with the limitation of the session, the legislature would have but about sixty days to consider it. This amendment requires that all reports subsequent to the first shall be made within ten days after the commencement of the session, so that they should have time to consider them.

Mr. CUSHING. Then the superintendent would be required every year to report a uniform system of free public school education to the legislature.

Mr. DAVIS, of Charles. I understand that is required by this section.

Mr. CUSHING. He is only required to report at the first session. After that his duties are to be fixed by the legislature.

Mr. DAVIS, of Charles. Then I will withdraw my amendment.

No further amendment was offered to the first section.

Section two was then read as follows:

"There shall be an assistant superintendent of public school instruction in each county and the city of Baltimore, who shall be appointed by the State's superintendent of public instruction, shall hold office for four years, receive such compensation and perform such duties as the general assembly may prescribe."

Mr. DANIEL. I do not know that I have any objection to this section. But I think there may be raised to this whole article the objection that it is going too much into the details of legislation about this matter. I recollect when in 1858 a bill was up before the legislature providing a general system of public education for the State, there was great controversy whether or not there should be an assistant superintendent in each county, or whether the board of public school commissioners were not sufficient, without a county superintendent. In the city of Baltimore we have only a board of school commissioners. My objection to this section is that it is perhaps going too much into details, and fixing what the legislature may want to alter. I think that upon the whole the best way would be to appoint a State superintendent to report a system to the legislature, and then leave the legislature to prescribe whatever may be necessary.

Mr. EDELEN. I move to strike out this second section. I think that section for providing five school commissioners in each county amply covers the matter. Those commissioners are to perform such duties as the general assembly may prescribe. I do not know what duties these assistant superintendents are to perform which are not performed by the board of school commissioners. I think that at this time, on the score of expense, we ought to make as few officers as possible. This assistant superintendent is to be a salaried officer. To receive such compensation

and perform such duties as the general assembly may prescribe.

The question was upon striking out section two.

Upon this question, Mr. EDELEN called for the yeas and nays, and they were ordered.

Mr. PETER. Before the clerk proceeds to call the roll, I would like to inquire of the chairman of the committee (Mr. Cushing) what was the object of putting this section in the report.

Mr. CUSHING. The object was to secure throughout the whole system, a uniformity which could only be gained by making the subordinate workers in the counties men known to the general State superintendent, men whose capacities were known to him, whom he would appoint, and for whose appointment he would be responsible to the legislature and to the people. There must be in every county some officer who, either under such regulations as the legislature may prescribe, or under the control of the school commissioners, shall do the really active work of travelling through the county, and to see at the time the State superintendent is not there, that the work is being properly done, and to report to him. The county commissioners are reduced to five for each county, to be selected without any regard to districts, to be appointed by the State board of education, in the hope that they will be taken from among those who will be competent to examine teachers. I much question if the great bulk of school commissioners in the State of Maryland to-day are capable of examining the teachers of our public schools. You will find that the work is always done, if done at all, by two or three among them. In many cases the examination is a mere farce, without the slightest attention being paid to the qualifications of the person appointed. The object of this provision is to secure a uniformity to run through the whole system. The legislature is to prescribe the duties of these assistant superintendents, and to fix their compensation as they may think proper. If the duties are light the compensation will be light also.

Mr. DANIEL. I shall favor the striking out of this section, as well as the third and fourth sections. Then I am prepared to vote for the remainder of the report. These three sections, it seems to me, come properly within the sphere of the duties prescribed to the State superintendent. He is the man to prepare a system and report it to the legislature.

Mr. CUSHING. It is to be in conformity with the provisions of this constitution.

Mr. DANIEL. He may find that it is not proper to conform to these provisions. If you go too much into details, when he comes to prepare his system, he may find that some things you have done here are contrary to what he wants to do. You appoint this man to do this very business, the details of which